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BOOK REVIEW

An International Nomenclature of Yaws Lesions. By C. J. Hackett. 1957. Pp. 104, 76 illustrations. World Health Organisation Monograph Series No. 36, Geneva. Available from H.M. Stationery Office, P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1. (£1).

Descriptive dermatology in past generations was detailed, differentiating, and sometimes frankly imaginative. It tended to separate differing clinical manifestations which were subsequently found to have a common causation and to produce confusion of terminology even among nationals speaking their mother tongue; on the international plane confusion became worse confounded. Yaws, the treponematoses with a special predilection for skin and bone, is a case in point. The disadvantages arising from a confused nomenclature became specially significant in 1949 when the availability of long-acting penicillin preparations opened the way for national yaws-control campaigns in the major endemic areas of the world. In these mass campaigns agreed terminology is essential for teaching the para-medical personnel who will carry out the field work, for estimating the size of the problem in each area (which may well decide the treatment policy regarding latent cases and contacts), and for assessing the results found at re-survey. In particular, it is necessary to distinguish between those with early, infectious lesions, those with active late lesions, and those with

inactive signs of past infection. The "Atlas of Framboesia" (WHO Monograph Series No. 5) produced in 1951 was the initial step to meet these needs, but the accumulation of additional knowledge has justified the production of a further monograph.

The present monograph has been compiled by Dr. Hackett in co-operation with an international group of experts on yaws and the participants at the International Conference on Yaws Control which was held at Enugu, Nigeria, in 1955. It defines the dermatological terms included in the nomenclature of yaws lesions suggested for international use and gives some synonyms hitherto employed. The international nomenclature and synonyms are clearly set out in two columns while a third column adds useful "remarks". The main part comprises 76 excellent black-and-white photographs of yaws lesions in Africans, which illustrate the lesions mentioned in the nomenclature. Although inexpensive, the book is well produced. It will be invaluable to those directly involved in yaws control throughout the world and will add much to the efficiency and success of such work. It will also interest the syphilologist dealing with immigrants from areas where yaws is or has lately been endemic. In fact, it should be studied by all those interested in the treponematoses and is a valuable contribution to the literature of this subject.

S.M.L.